

**Technical Guidelines Development Committee Public Hearing:
Computer Security and Transparency in Voting Systems
Opening Remarks
September 20, 2004**

- Thank you Dr. Rivest. On behalf of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), I would like to welcome everyone - Election Assistance Commissioner De Gregorio, the Technical Guidelines Development Committee members, panelists and the public - to NIST for the first of three days of public hearings.
- We are very proud to have been given the important responsibility under the Help America Vote Act: to assist the Election Assistance Commission and the Technical Guidelines Development Committee—known as the TGDC—with the technical support required to develop voluntary voting system guidelines.
- It is going to require a significant level of effort to develop an initial set of recommended guidelines by the HAVA mandated nine month deadline of April 9, 2005. This week's hearings are the first phase of this effort.
- One of the duties of the TGDC is to gather and analyze data and information related to the security of computers, human factors, voter privacy, and methods to detect and prevent fraud.
- The Hearing today on Computer Security and Transparency in Voting Systems as well as the Hearings that follow on Tuesday and Wednesday offer an initial opportunity for the election community to give testimony on technical issues related to the TGDC's voluntary voting standards development process.
- While NIST has considerable experience in "standards development," we understand that as a non-regulatory agency our role is limited and we do not know all the answers.
- Ultimately, in coordination with the EAC, the TGDC, and the broader elections community, we will apply our standards development experience and expertise to election-related technologies so that, when voting is complete, the vote tally will be accurate and done in a timely manner.
- NIST will continue to work closely with the Election Assistance Commission to implement the mandates of the Help America Vote Act. We appreciate the support of Commissioner DeGregorio and his fellow Commissioners as we move forward to meet the HAVA time table.
- I would like to inform everyone that the transcribed proceedings of the Hearings will be available on the web site: <http://vote.nist.gov>. We also encourage interested members of the public to submit additional testimony either in hard copy or electronically to voting@nist.gov
- Thank you for coming to these Hearings and providing us with your valuable insight. So since the "clock" on our deadline is ticking I'm going to turn the meeting back to Dr. Rivest so that we can begin the first phase of our effort.